

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02306 220452Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
CU-04 /065 W
-----112751 220457Z /21

R 220334Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9105
INFO CINCPAC
FBIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PINT, CH
SUBJECT: YEH CHIEN-YING ORIGINAL CRITIC OF FACTIONS

REF: HONG KONG 1867

1. IN ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE REPORT FROM A READER (THIS ONE SAID TO HAVE RETURNED RECENTLY FROM SHANGHAI) HONG KONG'S INDEPENDENT MING PAO (FEBRUARY 20) CREDITS PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING WITH LABELING THE "WIND", "SLIPPERY" AND "EARTHQUAKE" FACTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE "READER," CADRE IN CHINA SAY YEH DID THIS AT AN EXPANDED MILITARY COMMISSION MEETING LAST NOVEMBER AT TSUNGHUA HOT SPRINGS (KWANGTUNG PROVINCE), WHERE THE "OLD AND FRAIL" YEH HAD GONE TO ESCAPE THE COLD WEATHER. CONVENING THE MEETING WITH YEH WAS PARTY VICE
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CHAIRMAN TENG HSIAO-PING. OTHER HIGH LEVEL BUT UNNAMED MILITARY LEADERS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN ATTENDANCE. IN THIS ACCOUNT, THE THREE FACTIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWERS OF LIN PIAO AND/OR THE GANG OF FOUR AT SENIOR, MIDDLE AND JUNIOR LEVELS IN THE MILITARY. YEH REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THEM IN STRONG TERMS, THOUGH NOTING THAT THEY WERE NOT AN

"ANTI-PARTY HARD CORE."

2. COMMENT: AN EARLIER MING PAO STORY (77 HONG KONG 15615) HAD RELATED THAT YEH AND TENG ATTENDED SUCH A MEETING. IF THE PRESENT REPORT IS CORRECT, IT WOULD PUT YEH FIRMLY IN OPPOSITION TO A NUMBER OF LEADERS WHO APPEAR TO FIT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FACTION MEMBERS. IT WOULD ALSO UNDERCUT SPECULATION ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TENG AND YEH. DEPICTION OF TENG AND YEH AS CO-SPONSORS OF A DRIVE AGAINST THE THREEE FACTIONS TAKES ON GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IN THE MIDST OF THE PRC'S PREPARATIONS FOR ANATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) AND THE FORMATION OF A NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. ANY DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY AT THE NPC WOULD CLEARLY BE MARRED IF THERE WERE A GENERAL FEELING THAT YEH AND TENG WERE AT LOGGERHEADS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL SITUATION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK02306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0486
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780229/aaaaayjx.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02292bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HONG KONG 1867
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3525035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YEH CHIEN-YING ORIGINAL CRITIC OF FACTIONS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, PROP, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02292bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014